



March 31, 2020

MR LARRY WAWRONOWICZ
NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR
LAC DU FLAMBEAU TRIBE
PO BOX 67
LAC DU FLAMBEAU WI 54538

SUBJECT: Petroleum Contamination Adjacent to the Tower Standard Service Site
Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Wawronowicz:

I am writing as a follow-up to the October 28, 2019 consultation between Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resources staff and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the Tower Standard Service site. The purpose of the consultation was for DNR to provide our basis for making a case closure decision for the Tower Standard Service site and for the Tribal Natural Resources Department (TNRD) to discuss issues presented by the DNR's closure decision.

A major focus of the discussions was the enforcement status of the adjacent property to the east of the Tower Standard property. Prior to the consultation, DNR had explained to the TNRD that the closure decision related to the Tower Standard Service site was based, in part, on data suggesting a second source of contamination exists on the adjacent property. Further, DNR explained that it is our general practice to issue a responsible party (RP) letter to the owners of property that are the source of environmental contamination, such as the adjacent property, under the authority of Wisconsin Statutes section 292.11(3).

After reviewing the information provided by you and your staff, the DNR will not issue an RP letter to the owners of the adjacent property at this time. This determination is based on the representations that TRND will continue to have discussions with US EPA Region 5 about this adjacent property and potential remedial action options. The US EPA administers several financial resources for investigating and cleaning up contaminated properties. US EPA also offers other assistance (for example, Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-training-and-research#TAB>). Please find the enclosure attached to this letter with more details.

We appreciate the opportunity to discuss these important issues with you and your staff. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Saari
Northern Region Team Supervisor
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

Enclosures:

RR-077 Quick Reference Chart: Cleanup and Redevelopment Funding Programs
RR-932 Brownfields Funding Matrix

cc: Sherry Kamke – US EPA Region 5
Darsi Foss – DNR AD/8
Shelly Allness – DNR AD/8
Christine Haag – DNR RR/5
Bill Nelson – DNR LS/8